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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH AND HIS POLICY OF UNITY
- NORTH VIETNAM -
by Ton Duc Thang

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FOREWORD

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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH AND HIS POLICY OF UNITY

- NORTH VIETNAM -

[Following is a translation of an article by Ton Duc Thang, Chairman of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front of Vietnam, in the Vietnamese-language newspaper Cuu Quoc (National Salvation), Hanoi, No 2964, 19 May 1960.]

One of the glorious contributions of our beloved President Ho to the Vietnamese revolution is his building of the united nations bloc. bloc.

President Ho believes in the patriotism, will to fight, and creative ability of workers, farmers, intellectuals and other classes who were ruthlessly oppressed by the imperialists and feudalists. He believes that the force of unity of the oppressed masses is unrivaled. To do revolutionary work, to overthrow imperialism and feudalism, to realize national independence, people's democracy, the unification of the Fatherland, and to advance toward socialism, we must unite into a wide revolutionary front. The wider and tighter the unity, the bigger the victory. Without the revolutionary front, the revolution cannot succeed. President Ho has summarized that truth in the famous sentence: "Unity, unity, great unity. Success, success, great success."

Throughout nearly fifty years of revolutionary activities, Chairman Ho Chi Minh has spent a great deal of his efforts in building the National United Front.

With the similar idea of uniting the oppressed forces Chairman Ho Chi Minh founded the Colonial Union right after World War I in Paris, and in 1925, the League of Oppressed Nations in Canton. In 1930, together with the unification of the Communist forces in Vietnam, he advocated the setting up of the Allied Anti-Imperialist Front (1931-1935). The main result of this campaign was the establishment of the allied bloc of farmers and workers forming a stable base for the National United Front.

During the period 1936-1939, Chairman Ho sent from China letters of advice to the Party, in which he said: To achieve its revolutionary responsibilities, the Party now "must make every effort to organize a broad national Democratic Front. This Front not only shall include indigenous people but also progressive Frenchmen,

not only the laboring classes but also the national bourgeois classes." The campaign to establish the Democratic Front consolidated the allied bloc of farmers and workers further and, thanks to it, many more democratic and progressive forces for enlightening and organizing the masses have been created far and wide in order to prepare for the advance of the revolution.

At the beginning of 1941, Chairman Ho returned to Vietnam and directed the establishment of the Viet Minh Front and campaigned for the National Salvation Associations. At this time, throughout the country from north to south, the sincere appeal of Chairman Ho urged everyone toward the road of national salvation: "The time has come. All compatriots, stand up! Unify your actions! Overthrow the French and the Japanese!" Under the enlightened leadership of the Party of the working class and of Chairman Ho, the Viet Minh Front rapidly united the revolutionary forces, realized the broad and solid national united bloc, carried out victoriously the August Revolution, set up the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and started laying the foundations for the people's democratic regime.

Right after being set up, the revolutionary, government met with many difficulties: Thousands of Chiang Kai-shek's troops moved into North Vietnam, bringing with them the Viet Quoc and Viet Cach bands which plotted to overthrow the people's government, and French troops returned to invade South Vietnam. Within the country, the revolutionary government was still young and weak, the financial situation very deplorable, and hunger prevailed all over the Nation. At that time, great unity had a decisive significance. With the policy of great unity of Chairman Ho, the Lien Viet Front came into existence. Trusting the experienced leadership of Chairman Ho, all of our people united and the revolutionary ship of Vietnam overcame the hurricane.

The nationwide resistance broke out, all of our people again warmly responded to chairman Ho's appeal for unity against the foreign aggressors: "No! We would rather lose everything than lose the fatherland, we are determined not to be slaves. There are 20 million compatriots against one hundred thousand colonialists, our victory is highly guaranteed." During the long resistance, the Party of the working class and the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam under Chairman Ho were determined to fight and defeat all schemes to divide us on the part of the imperialists and their lackeys. At the same time, the Party and the Government did their best to carry out many policies aimed at tightening the alliance between farmers and workers, strengthening incessantly the alliance with the intellectuals, the bourgeois elements, and other progressive, patriotic persons, and uniting with ethnic and religious groups. Consequently, our people have achieved a united bloc as solid as iron and steel. All over our fatherland, from the north to the south, from the plains to the mountains, from the free zone to the behind-the enemy area, from the front lines to the rear zone, in

factories as well as in the rice fields, the various classes of our people responded to Chairman Ho's appeal and brought their warm patriotism and fighting spirit to bear on patriotic endeavors and realization of the slogan "all for the front line, all for victory." The force of unity of our people triumphed over a powerful empire. That proved the deep significance of the word "unity" in theory as well as in practice, the word that Chairman Ho has always advised us to have.

With the return of peace, Chairman Ho issued the following directive to the whole nation: "As for the National United Front, we need to widen and consolidate it further. From the north to the south, we must be ready to unite with everyone in favor of peace, unity, independence, and democracy, we must sincerely unite with him regardless of his previous political affiliation." Under the guidance of this directive, the Fatherland Front came into existence and has contributed an important share in strengthening the unity of the whole nation, stepping up the struggle for the unification of the Fatherland, and leading the north towards socialism.

Chairman Ho's grand life has always been tightly related to the successful development of the policy of the United National Front. From the earlier days of the revolution, when our people still lived a miserable life, to the long and difficult days of the August Revolution, the violent and long-lasting resistance, the complicated period of transition and the struggle for the unification of the fatherland, our beloved Chairman Ho has constantly showed us the way of unity is the way of victory. His achievements have been grand and glorious mainly because he was able to contribute tremendously to the building of the best national unity bloc in the history of our country, and to make our weak nation become a strong one, able to realize victoriously all extremely difficult revolutionary tasks.

Chairman Ho is a shining example of national unity not only because of his wholesome policy of great unity, but also because of his daily attitudes and work. As he understands thoroughly and sympathizes deeply with the sorrows, the psychology and passionate aspirations of every class of our people, his affection for everyone is sincere, wide and deep. He shares the sorrows of our people, their joy and their victories. His noble, humane behavior not only constitutes a source of comfort and inspiration for our people in their life and struggle, and enables the training of backward people to be successful, but also conquers even the heart of the deviationist. That is mainly why compatriots all over the country feel near Chairman Ho, respect and love him, trust him, and give him the endearing term of the Old Father of the Nation, and the Uncle Ho of the people. It is mainly for this reason that the whole people, in the country as well as in the home, has united sincerely in revolutionary work.

This year, chairman Ho is 70 years old. With a deep feeling and boundless gratitude, our people warmly celebrate his 70th birthday anniversary and wish him to have a healthy long life so as to lead us toward more and more unity.